

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 13, 2015

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## **Important Dates**

Science Fair - April 16 at 6 p.m. in the MPR

Rock' Lock In - May 1-2

## **News**

### **Fifth Grade Science Fair**

Our Science Fair will be held this Thursday in the multipurpose room starting at 6 p.m. Please bring the whole family and visit the amazing experiments created by our students. The evening will be part of Holmes' STEM evening.

### **Rockin' Lock In**

Our annual Lock In is scheduled for Friday, May 1 through Saturday, May 2. Permission slips were distributed last week and parents were sent an email to sign up for a mandatory shift. Please be sure to get this information in as soon as possible.

### **Typing Practice**

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

---

## **SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS**

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) and Twitter @HolmesArt97. We are now working on comic strips. Students will be writing and illustrating a non-fiction, autobiographical, six-panel comic strip. It can be about something funny that happened to them, or something they are proud of. This week we are learning about and creating storyboards for our comics.

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Third trimester is upon us! I received the copies of the assessment letter on Friday so they will be coming home Monday. The music for the recorder assessment is already on the [fifth grade website](#). There is a video on the website as well. We will have a help session this Thursday at 11:45 for anyone who wants to work on their playing with me. I was out of the building last Thursday so we did not have one at that time.

**Chorus and Gold Belt** - We have our last rehearsal for the choral festival on Wednesday in the morning. Please wear your chorus t-shirts or a red t-shirt and dark pants. In the evening we will have our choral festival. Students should arrive at 6:40 and will be directed to the North cafeteria. Please look at signs in front in case of changes. They should wear a white top and dark pants or a dark skirt with dress shoes. Please allow time to find parking. Students will be picked up from the cafeteria as well.

**Gold Belt** is working on Canon in D featuring soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorders as well as other pieces for our spring concert- May date TBD.

**Spanish** - Here is the current fifth grade story that was written collaboratively by all 4 classes:  
[https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/1AZSr\\_auDBvJ2yIBA44g3tA0IsJmyUXKaBBddXMmiyuY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/1AZSr_auDBvJ2yIBA44g3tA0IsJmyUXKaBBddXMmiyuY/edit?usp=sharing)

We are finishing up acting out the story and completing our final assessments this week.

**Library** - *Regular Library news*: We have started a long-term research project in the library using the Oak Park Public Library's shared databases to conduct our research. We are using CultureGrams to research a country of the student's choice. If you are not familiar with these databases, take a look at the library's homework help page: <http://oppl.org/services/kids/homework-help> This incredible list of databases can be used by any D97 student without a library card while at school. From home, students will need to type in a library card number and PIN.

*Reading Olympics*: The next step is the **Extreme Competition!** This takes place April 27th and features all 18 books. The Holmes competition is Wednesday, April 22nd. Students should have their team forms in this week. There is one final meeting this **Friday, April 17** at 12:15 in the library. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - February is Gymnastic Unit here at Holmes. The kids will be swinging, hanging, climbing, rolling, cartwheeling, somersaulting, and many other equilibrium building balancing acts.  
([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

### **Reading/Literature**

In Reading this week we will read non-fiction articles that relate to the American Revolution. We will also begin reading My Brother Sam Is Dead. This historical fiction novel takes place at the beginning of the American Revolution.

### **Writing**

Students will be working on their classroom Shakespeare plays.

### **Math**

This week, we will continue to work on decimal division. We will continue to use place value knowledge and estimation when dividing decimals by whole numbers. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering the material we discussed this week. The decimals unit test will be mid-next week. We will review in class before taking the test.

### **Science**

Trifold boards for the Science Fair are due in class Monday. We will work in class to prepare the oral presentation for our community judges who will visit classes Thursday morning. Please visit the wiki for more information, or email Ms. Manuel or Ms. Kraft with questions.  
<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair> The Science Fair will take place Thursday, April 16, starting at 6 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

## **Social Studies**

In Social Studies we will continue to learn about events that led to the American Revolution. As we do this we will try to view them from the perspectives of Loyalists, Patriots, and Native Americans. Specifically this week we will learn about the Stamp Act and the Boston Massacre. During the Boston Massacre lesson we will analyze primary documents in the form of artwork to see how different groups viewed the event.

## **Spelling/Word Study**

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We learn that the bases “scrib” and “script” mean “write” and that “dict” means “say,” “speak,” or “tell.”

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner  
[afinkbeiner@op97.org](mailto:afinkbeiner@op97.org)

Ms. Kraft  
[fkraft@op97.org](mailto:fkraft@op97.org)

Ms. Manuel  
[mmanuel@op97.org](mailto:mmanuel@op97.org)

Mr. Porter  
[cporter@op97.org](mailto:cporter@op97.org)